

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS—REVIEWS AND COMMENT

VIEWS AND REVIEWS  
OF CURRENT FICTIONMargaret Deland's Warning to Modern Young Women—  
A New Immigrant Novelist and His Sponsors—  
First "Glad Books" of the Fall.

On the threshold of a new book season, the publishers' press agents fairly bubble over with enthusiasm. Kathleen Norris's new story, not one of her best, has been heralded to us as a novel with a high purpose, nothing less than the initiation of a movement for the abolition of divorce. In reality it proves nothing at all beyond the familiar fact that no two divorces, like two marriages, are alike. A professor of literature has dropped into the superlatives over the first story of a young immigrant, and an anonymous novelist has given it as his (or her) opinion that it is "the great American novel which Robert Herrick once said would rise and write." "Witte Arrives," a slip-cover of "Witte Arrives," and we are invited to compare a notable book by a new writer, "Casuals of the Sea," with Conrad's work.

## THE RISING TIDE.

THE RISING TIDE. By Margaret Deland. Illustrated by Walter Taylor. 12mo, pp. 226. Harper & Co.

Mrs. Deland is preeminently a women's novelist. She has given them

the other-worldly, sentimental Dr. Lander, and the story of Helena Richie, which owed its enormous success to the very falsity of its psychology, its author's very lack of knowledge of the lawless phase of life with which it dealt. She is deservedly one of our most popular authors. But only once has she struck the deeper note, approached the grand manner—in "The Iron Woman," a book whose interest and strength were but little impaired by the patent fact that it had been planned and written backward, from the denouement to its beginnings. Comparisons are occasionally useful; the one oftentimes made in Mrs. Deland's case, that with Mrs. Humphry Ward, is strikingly illustrated by this new novel.

Mrs. Ward has never been able to advance beyond the late Victorian era, an inhibition which has grown increasingly perceptible in her later books, most strikingly, perhaps, in her top-heavy English attitude toward colonialism in her one novel of Canadian life, but more significantly in her recent stories, whose scene is laid in an England that



BERTHA RUCK.  
("In Another Girl's Shoes": Dodd, Mead & Co.)



ETHEL HUESTON.  
("Prudence Says So": Bobbs, Merrill Company.)

ceased to be fifteen years ago. This same lingering in a period already past is perceptible in the new story, whose scene is laid, however, in a small, stagnant American town, where, no doubt, the old prejudices still linger in strength, and where, in consequence, feminism may still be in its early, defiant, intransigent mood. "No doubt but ye are the people, and wisdom shall die with you," is the motto she inscribes on her title-page, addressed to the young female headstrong full of immature cocksureness, of youthful unreasonableness and resentment, of undigested socio-economic theories—a young woman to whom the passing generation is not a link in the process of socio-economic evolution, but a deliberate criminal. Her unconscious selfishness is colossal, but, except for the frankness of its expression, is it greater than the selfishness of every new generation in revolt against its elders ever since organized life began? And, indeed, Frederica Payton has cause for revolt. Her father did not die until she was old enough to see with intolerant young eyes what sort of man he was. Dying, he left her a mother who hid the relief of her liberation under the conventional decorum of mourning of her day and generation, and an idiotic brother. The mother is a cross with her stencilled precepts for the conduct of life; the unfortunate brother, her father's sins in the flesh, her mother's sin as well, the sin of acquiescence.

Frederica talks frankly, on eugenics, of which her parents knew nothing; on all the once forbidden topics which the youth of both sexes insist upon discussing freely with an air of matter-of-factness that only imperfectly hides considerable self-consciousness.

The autocar in which she is riding with a young man breaks down far from home. She spends the night in a wayside inn, and so does he. When she becomes a real estate agent—the family is rich, and she can afford it—she spends long hours with this young man in untenanted apartments, pouring out her grievances, her opinions, and her plans for many campaigns for her sex. And this young man is Mrs. Deland's warning to militant young womanhood. He admires Frederica's mind immensely, but he does not grasp half of what she says. She, theorizing boldly, falls in love with him in the good, old-fashioned way, but he marries her, understanding nothing, listening with rapid interest to his endless dissertations on the delights of his hobby, conchology. This girl, too, is modern in spirit, as modern as Frederica, but her parents restrain her from excesses of expression in word and act. Frederica, robbed of what she has come to know as woman's highest happiness, her greatest right in life, is left to make the best she can of her broken existence.

Mrs. Deland is decidedly didactic in this story. She presents the arguments on both sides, but they are the familiar ones of long ago, and prove nothing. The sketches of the many characters grouped around Frederica are excellently drawn, with a certain touch of humor here and there, but in the plot the dice are loaded against the girl from the first. Her case is a sad one, but as a warning it is invalidated by the unescapable reflection that the youth of both sexes insist upon discussing freely with an air of matter-of-factness that only imperfectly hides considerable self-consciousness.

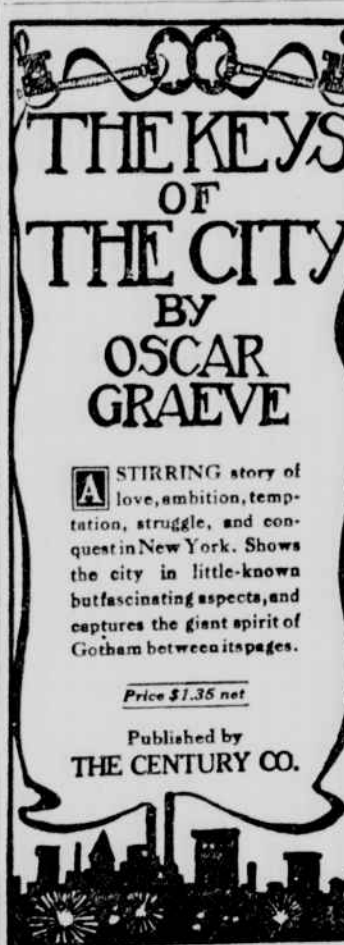
## WITTE ARRIVES.

WITTE ARRIVES. A Novel. By Elias Tobenkin. Illustrated by J. H. H. 12mo, pp. 284. Price, \$1.35 net. A. S. Barnes Company.

We have ceased looking for that problematic and indefinable something, "the great American novel." We have even stopped speculating upon its probable nature—all this made good "copy" once upon a time—and wisely have reached the conclusion that there is an abundance of room, and a superabundance of material, for not the great, but several great American novels. Why Robert Herrick should have expressed the conviction, in the days when the subject was at its height, that this great American novel would be written by an immigrant, he himself can perhaps explain. The contributions made to our fiction by earlier immigrants have certainly in no way indicated a gradual progress toward the masterpiece. As a matter of fact, our immigrant novelists and short-story tellers have almost without exception dealt not with American, but with immigrant life, and with its imperfect reactions and adaptations to American conditions.

In justice to Elias Tobenkin it must be assumed that none was more surprised than he when his modest, promising story of an immigrant was hailed with such astounding enthusiasm by Professor Phelps and the rest. It must be added, in justice to the reader and to American fiction, that "Witte Arrives" is not "the great American novel" far from it. It is a realistic story of the fortunes of a Russian Jewish family in this country, and of the progress, through journalism to authorship, of one of its sons. A novel of immigration, then, not of America, it tells of the borderland where Americanization takes place—a slow, chaotic process, notwithstanding the rapid assimilation of outward appearances.

It is likely that Mr. Tobenkin's story is to some extent autobiographical. Artistically he is a beginner. He has no conception of style, he makes no effort at one. His vocabulary is small and bald; the most *mot juste* is a forgery gift. But he has seen what he himself



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NEWS AND GOSSIP OF  
BOOKS AND AUTHORSTwo Histories of the Dublin Insurrection—Cervantes's  
"Rinconete and Cortadillo"—Lord Dunsany—Poetry  
of the Civil War—Russian Art.

"Six Days of the Irish Republic," a narrative and critical account of the recent rebellion in Dublin, by L. G. Redmond-Howard, is announced for immediate publication by John W. Luce & Co. The author was in Dublin when the outbreak occurred and remained throughout the dramatic and tragic days that followed as an observer, and later as a participant in the capacity of a hospital volunteer. The censored press reports received during the rebellion, he says, gave no adequate idea of its extent or character. Another book on the subject is James Stephens's "The Dublin Insurrection," promised by the Macmillan Company for September 18. It was written, the author of "The Crook of Gold" explains in his preface, from day to day during the insurrection. It is not so much a history as a "statement of what happened in one quarter of Dublin and the gathering together of the rumor and the legend which had to serve the people of the city in lieu of news."

## With the Poets.

Edgar Lee Masters's new volume of verse will be called "The Great Valley." It is to be brought out by the Macmillan Company this fall, together with "Responsibilities," a collection of William Butler Yeats's recent verse; "The Quest," by John G. Neihardt; "Californians," by Robinson Jeffers, who is announced as California's con-

tribution to our contemporary poetry; "Men, Women and Ghosts," a bundle of stories in verse by Amy Lowell; "The Story of Elousi," a lyric drama in the Greek manner, by Louis V. Ledoux, and still another book of poetry by Rabindranath Tagore, "Fruit Gathering." The Bengali poet's first volume of short stories will be called "The Hungry Stones, and Other Stories."

## A New Novelist.

Theodore Dreiser, Arthur Mencken and Floyd Dell are the literary sponsors of a Chicago business man who has turned novelist. His name is Sherwood Anderson, and his first book, "Windy McPherson's Son," has just been published by the John Lane Company. Two more stories are ready for the printer, "Marching Men" and "Blackberry Season," and says Mr. Anderson breezily, "there are some more I'll turn out later. This idea about having to be full of high-blown ideas in order to be a writer is foolish. American life doesn't require the nervous, quibbling little fellows with long hair for its interpretation. It's raw stuff and needs strong handling." We shall see.

## Cervantes.

A translation of Cervantes's "Rinconete and Cortadillo" (one of the Exemplary Novels) will be brought out this fall by the Four Seas Company, of Boston. The translation and introduction are by Mariano J. Lorente; there is a preface by R. B. Cunningham. Cervantes and the illustrations are by the Spanish artist, H. Atalaya. This firm announces, further, a series of translations from the Latin-American literatures, to be inaugurated with "Canaan," by Graca Aranha, of the Brazilian Academy. This book, we are informed, was hailed by Anatole France as "the great American novel" on its appearance in a French version.

## Lord Dunsany's Books.

This Boston house announces also Lord Dunsany's "The Last Book of Wonder," "The Gods of Pegana," "A Dreamer's Tales," and "The Sword of Welleran." These, with the "Book of Wonders" and "Time and the Gods," will complete the American edition of this Irish author's tales. Lord Dunsany, by the way, is recovering from a serious wound received at the front on service with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, in which regiment he holds the rank of captain.

## Mr. Wilson's Words.

"Wit and Wisdom of Woodrow Wilson," edited by Richard Lintum, will contain "the meat" of all the important speeches made by the President during the last four years. It will give, in his own words, his personal views on all important questions of the time, from the truth to the tariff. Doubleday, Page & Co. are the publishers.

## Poetry of the Civil War.

Timely and welcome announcement is made by A. C. McClurg & Co., of Chicago, of a new edition of the late Francis Fisher Browne's anthology of "Civil War Poetry." Remarkably frequently made, upon the disappointing quality of the poetry inspired by the present war in either camp has generally been met with the argument that our own poets do no better in the great crisis of the Union. As a matter of fact, the conflict of 1861-65 called forth some excellent war verse, with which, however, the apologists of allied and unaligned poets, and the present generation generally, are all too little familiar. They will do well to consult Mr. Browne's anthology.

## "Seventeen."

William Baxter is going into the movies. Let us hope that he will take his sister Jane with him.

## Russian Art.

Alfred A. Knopf has arranged for an English translation of Alexander Benois's standard work, "The Russian 'School of Painting,'" published in the original by subscription in ten magnificently illustrated parts. Mr. Knopf promises adequate reproductions of these illustrations in the English edition, which will be an introduction by Christopher Brinton, a personal friend of Benois, who, by the way, is a Russian and not a Frenchman. From E. P. Dutton & Co. we have just received "The Russian Art and Architecture," a book by a Russian architect, dealing successfully with Russian architecture, decoration, and iconography, illustrating, engraving, painting and sculpture, and closes her book with a chapter on "The New Art" of Russia.

## "Retail Selling."

James W. Fisk, the author of "Retail Selling: A Guide to the Best Modern Practices" (Harper), has based his theories on practical personal experience. In his book the problem of the retailer is surveyed and analyzed from every possible standpoint. Beginning with a consideration of the general community and the scope it offers to the merchant in his particular field, every phase of the organization and management of a retail business is thoroughly dealt with. The physical problems of the store itself, its lighting, arrangement, display of stock, etc., are succeeded by a discussion of the psychological problems involved in the selection and training of employees, and the methods which they, in turn, are to employ in dealing with the customer. The competition which has arisen in the last decade through the department store, the chain store and the mail order house has compelled the retail tradesman to stop and reconsider his methods—in short to become a student of salesmanship in all its ramifications. Mr. Fisk's book is the latest and most complete summing up of all that science and experience have together worked out in this field.

## THE YOUTH OF ALL NATIONS.

By H. C. Harwood.  
Think not, my elders, to rejoice  
When from the nations' wreck we rise.  
With a new thunder in our voice,  
And a new lightning in our eyes.

The sins of many centuries,  
Sealed by your indolence and fright,  
Have earned us these our agonies,  
The thunderous appalling night.

Though scattered wider yet our youth  
On every sea and continent,  
There shall come bitter with the truth  
A fraction of the sons you sent.

When slowly with averted head,  
Some darkly, some with halting feet  
And bowed with mourning for our dead  
We walk the cheering, fluttering street.

A music terrible, austere,  
Shall rise from our returning ranks  
To change your merryment to fear,  
And slay upon your lips your thanks.  
—From "The Oxford Book of Poetry," 1915.

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